

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated August 16, 2004. Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner allowed claims 10-32, objected to claims 5 and 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and rejected claims 1-4 and 7-9.

In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 5 and 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 5 into independent form, and claim 6 depends from claim 5. Applicants believe that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

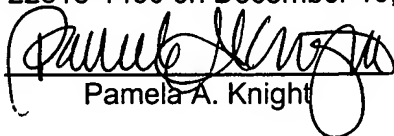
The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, and 7-9. Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 7-9, and amended claim 2-4 to depend from claim 5. Applicant has cancelled these claims to expedite issuance of the allowed claims. However, applicant respectfully reserves all right to prosecute the rejected claims in a continuation application(s).

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance

prosecution of the application, please contact applicant's undersigned attorney of record.

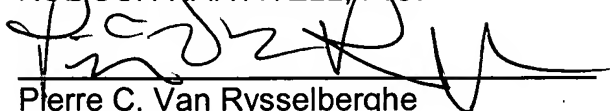
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 16, 2004.


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Respectfully submitted,

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